

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Sanford Bishop released the following statement today after participating in a Social Security Rally on Capitol Hill. The rally was held to demonstrate unity in efforts to strengthen Social Security and oppose plans for privatization as the debate enters its next phase on Capitol Hill. Today is the first day of the Senate Finance Committee hearings on Social Security.

“This afternoon I rallied with my colleagues in defense of a program that has saved millions of Americans from poverty and in support of thousands of my constituents whose very lives depend on Social Security.

“Social Security has been one of the most revolutionary and successful programs in the history of government, and while we all agree that steps need to be taken to ensure that future generations receive the benefits that they work for—we must not dismantle this program.

“My colleagues and I do not oppose privatization because it is a Republican idea or even because it is the President’s idea, our nation’s retirement security—as well as the safety net that provides for Americans living with disabilities and surviving children and spouses—is too important to politicize. Rather we oppose privatization because it is a bad plan. We oppose privatization because it would cut Social Security benefits, because it would add trillions of dollars to our national debt and because it would put the future of millions of Americans at risk.

“Never in our nation’s history has the United States government defaulted on its financial obligations and we will not start with Social Security. If we band together as a government we can guarantee that Social Security is alive and well for generations to come. We must not do this at the expense of the program or the millions who depend on it. Democrats are united in this fight and I invite my Republican colleagues to join us in our efforts to truly save Social Security.”